Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, For more than 121 years, the American Red Cross has honored its mission: to provide relief to victims of disaster while helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Last year alone, more than 1,481 silent heroes helped our neighbors by supporting the efforts of the Red Cross in South Dakota and almost 14,700 more took the time to learn lifesaving skills such as first aid, CPR, and defibrillator use; and,

Whereas, The victims of more than 100 disasters – from fires that affected a single structure to the Kingsbury and Brookings County tornadoes, the Herrick windstorm and the wildfires in the Black Hills – received help from the South Dakota Red Cross last year. More than 100 U.S. military families received direct assistance from the South Dakota Red Cross chapters, keeping them connected in times of great personal sorrow and joy; and,

Whereas, Today, in a collaborative effort with the federal government and other members of the emergency planning community, the South Dakota chapters of the Red Cross and their partners are better able to serve the community. Through its bold, new Together We Prepare initiative, the Red Cross is leading the way in empowering individuals and families to protect themselves. With five simple steps – make a plan, build a kit, get trained, volunteer, and give blood – the South Dakota chapters of the Red Cross and the citizens of South Dakota will help make their communities safer; and,

Whereas, On behalf of a grateful state, it is fitting and proper that, as Governor of the state of South Dakota, I applaud and recognize the selfless dedication of generations of Red Crossers:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 2003, as

RED CROSS MONTH

in South Dakota, and call upon our citizens to become partners in preparedness with their local Red Cross chapters and to become active participants in advancing its noble mission.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-first Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State